

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An isolated nucleic acid fragment comprising a seed-specific soybean annexin promoter.

5        2. An isolated nucleic acid fragment comprising a seed-specific soybean promoter wherein said promoter consists essentially of the nucleotide sequence set forth in any of SEQ ID NO:1 or 13-22.

3. An isolated nucleic acid fragment comprising a seed-specific P34 soybean promoter.

10       4. An isolated nucleic acid fragment comprising a seed-specific soybean promoter wherein said promoter consists essentially of the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2.

15       5. A recombinant expression construct comprising at least one heterologous nucleic acid fragment operably linked to any one of the isolated nucleic acid fragments of any of Claims 1, 2, 3, or 4.

6. A plant comprising in its genome the recombinant expression construct of Claim 5.

7. The plant of Claim 6 wherein said plant is selected from the group consisting of dicotyledonous plants.

20       8. The plant of Claim 7 wherein the plant is soybean.

9. The recombinant expression construct of Claim 5 wherein the heterologous nucleic acid fragment encodes an enzyme related to production of at least one long chain polyunsaturated fatty acid.

25       10. A method for regulating expression of at least one heterologous nucleotide sequence in plant which comprises:

(a) transforming a plant cell with the recombinant expression construct of Claim 5;

(b) growing fertile mature plants from transformed plant cell of step (a); and

30       (c) selecting plants comprising a transformed plant cell expressing the heterologous nucleotide sequence.

11. The method of Claim 10 wherein the plant is a soybean plant.

35       12. The method of Claim 10 wherein the heterologous nucleic acid fragment encodes an enzyme related to production of at least one long chain polyunsaturated fatty acid.

13. A method for regulating expression of at least one heterologous nucleotide sequence in a plant which comprises:

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- (a) transforming a plant cell with a recombinant expression construct comprising at least one heterologous nucleic acid fragment operably linked to the isolated nucleic acid fragment of any of Claims 1, 2, 3, or 4.
- (b) growing fertile mature plants from transformed plant cell of step (a); and
- (c) selecting plants comprising a transformed plant cell expressing the heterologous nucleotide sequence during early seed development.